

Initiatives taken by the Ministry of Minority Affairs for the welfare of minorities

Sl. no	Schemes and initiatives	Achievements
1.	Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities	<p>The programme launched in 1983 was revised in June, 2006 as the Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities. It provides programme specific interventions, with definite goals which are to be achieved in a specific time frame. It also provides that, wherever possible, 15% of targets and outlays, under schemes considered amenable to targeting, should be earmarked for the minorities.</p> <p>Some of the notable achievements made during 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 till December, 2008 in respect of schemes of various Ministries/Departments where targets were fixed for minorities are given below:-</p> <p>(a) Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, 961 primary schools were constructed in 2006-07 in minority concentration areas and this increased to 2008 in 2007-08. In 2008-09, 3226 primary schools have been constructed. In respect of new upper primary schools, 1,114 were opened in such areas during 2006-07. This increased to 3,001 during 2007-08. In 2008-09, 2238 new upper primary schools have been constructed. Similarly, the number of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBV) sanctioned for educationally backward blocks, having a substantial minority population, rose from 97 in 2006-07 to 219 in 2007-08. In 2008-09, 120 KGBVs have been constructed.</p> <p>(b) Under the Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY) of the Ministry of Rural Development, 60,494 Swarojgaris belonging to the minorities were assisted in 2006-07 and this went up to 143,385 in 2007-08. In 2008-09, 186570 swarojgaris have been assisted.</p> <p>(c) Under the Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) of the Ministry of Rural Development, 14,236 BPL families belonging to the minorities were assisted for construction of houses in 2006-07. This went up to 155,980 in 2007-08. In 2008-09, 239235 families have been assisted.</p> <p>(d) Under the Swarn Jayanti Shahari Rojgar Yojana (SJSRY) of the Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation, 15,933 beneficiaries were assisted for skill training in 2006-07. In 2007-08, the achievement rose substantially to 41,466. In 2008-09, 13742 beneficiaries have been assisted.</p> <p>(e) The proportion of priority sector lending (PSL) flowing to the minorities has been targeted by the Department of Financial Services to increase from 9% of the total priority sector lending to 15% over three years i.e. 2007-08 to 2009-10. In 2007-08, Rs.58,662.67 crore, which was 9.67% of the total priority sector lending, was disbursed to minorities. The target for minorities is Rs.86,774.01 crore for 2008-09 which come to 13% of the national target of PSL. Of this, Rs.71,566.58 crore have been disbursed, which is about 82.47% of the target fixed for minorities.</p> <p>(f) Revised guidelines to improve the representation of minorities in government service and public sector undertakings have been issued by the Department of Personnel & Training in January, 2007. Since then, there has been an improvement in recruitment from 6.95% in 2006-07 to 8.65% in 2007-08 in Central Ministries/Departments.</p> <p>Further, some of the notable achievements of new schemes launched and initiatives taken by the Ministry of Minority Affairs, as envisaged in the programme, are given below:-</p> <p>(a) Post-matric scholarship: A new post-matric scholarship scheme for students belonging to the minority communities in class- XI upto P.h.d was launched in 2007-08. 57112 scholarships were awarded in 2007-08, the first year of implementation of which 56.80% went to girl students. In 2008-09, 141,447</p>

		<p>scholarships have been sanctioned till 17th March, 2009, of which 55.64% went to girl students.</p> <p>(b) Pre-matric scholarship: A new pre-matric scholarship scheme for students belonging to the minority communities in class-I to X was launched in 2008-09. 457,794 scholarships have been sanctioned till 17th March, 2009, of which 51.11% went to girl students.</p> <p>(c) Free Coaching & Allied Scheme: A free coaching and allied scheme for weaker sections including SC, OBC & minorities was implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment. After the creation of the Ministry in January, 2006 the scheme was revised exclusively for minorities. The scope and rates of the scheme was revised with a view to enhance the skills and knowledge of students and candidates from the minority communities to secure employment in government service, public sector undertakings and jobs in the private sector. Coaching for 690 candidates was sanctioned in 2006-07, 4147 in 2007-08 covering 14 States/UTs and approved for 7644 in 2008-09 upto 17th March, 2009 covering 24 States/UTs.</p> <p>(d) Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF): MAEF corpus has been enhanced from Rs.100 crore to Rs.250 crore to enable it to expand its education development activities. A further sum of Rs.60 crore has been provided for 2008-09. The foundation has sanctioned grant of Rs.115.36 crore to 881 NGOs all over the country since its inception. In 2008-09, the foundation has sanctioned scholarships for 12064 girl students amounting to Rs.14.48 crore till 31st January, 2009.</p> <p>(e) National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC): The authorised share capital of the NMDFC was increased from Rs.650 crore to Rs.750 crore in 2007-08 and to Rs.850 crore in 2008-09. NMDFC has given financial assistance to 425156 beneficiaries amounting to Rs.1172.36 crore in 25 States and 3 Union Territories since inception till 31st January, 2009. In 2008-09, an amount of Rs.130.72 crore has been disbursed to 51198 beneficiaries till 28th February, 2009. It has been approved 'in-principle' that NMDFC will be restructured.</p>
2.	Merit-cum-Means Scholarship Scheme	<p>A new scholarship scheme meant exclusively meant for professional and technical courses at under-graduate and post-graduate levels for students belonging to minority communities was launched in 2007. It provides for re-imburement of full fees of eligible students studying in 70 listed institutes. 17258 scholarships were awarded in 2007-08 of which 29.02% went to girl students. For 2008-09, 25432 were sanctioned till 17th March, 2009, of which 31.58 % went to girl students.</p>
3.	Multi-Sectoral Development Programme for minority concentration districts	<p>90 minority concentration districts (MCDs), which are backward in basic amenities and socio-economic parameters, were identified in 2007-08. A multi-sectoral development programme to address the 'development deficits' specially in education, skill development, employment, sanitation, housing, drinking water and electricity supply has been launched from 2008-09. Baseline surveys to identify 'development deficits' have been carried out in all the districts. Plans of 47 minority concentration districts in Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Assam, Manipur, Bihar, Meghalaya, Jharkhand, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Orissa have been approved and Rs.270.82 crore has been released till 17th March, 2009.</p>

4.	Initiatives taken in pursuance of the Sachar Committee recommendations	<p>The status on some of the decisions taken on the follow-up action on the recommendations of the Sachar Committee are given below:</p> <p>(a) All public sector banks have been directed to open more branches in districts having a substantial minority population. In 2007-08, 523 branches were opened in such districts. In 2008-09, 329 new branches have been opened till 31st December, 2008.</p> <p>(b) An expert group constituted to study and recommend the structure and functions of an Equal Opportunity Commission submitted its report on 13th March, 2008. A proposal in this regard is under inter-ministerial consultation.</p> <p>(c) The expert group constituted for evolving an appropriate Diversity Index to measure diversity in the areas of education, housing and employment has submitted its report on 24th June, 2008. The recommendations of the expert group are under consideration.</p> <p>(d) A National Data Bank, to compile data on the various socio-economic and basic amenities parameters for socio-religious communities, has been set up in the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.</p> <p>(e) An autonomous Assessment & Monitoring Authority (AMA), to analyse data collected for taking appropriate and corrective policy decisions, has been set up in the Planning Commission.</p> <p>(f) The madarsa modernization programme has been revised to make it more attractive by providing better salary to teachers, increased assistance for books, teaching aids and computers, and introduction of vocational subjects, etc. This scheme, now known as Quality Improvement in Madrasa Education, has been launched by the Ministry of Human Resource Development.</p> <p>(g) National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has prepared text books for all classes in the light of the National Curriculum Framework-2005.</p> <p>(h) Thirteen universities have been provided Rs.40 lakh each for starting centres for studying social exclusion and inclusive policy for minorities and scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.</p> <p>(i) A training module has been developed by the Indian Institute of Public Administration, for sensitization of government officials. The module has been sent to all the Central/State Training Institutes for implementation. Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) has prepared a module for sensitization of organised civil services and it has been incorporated in their training programmes.</p> <p>(j) Under Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT), additional central assistance of Rs.1602.20 crore has been sanctioned for 69 towns having substantial minority population, out of which Rs.659.37 crore has been released in 2008-09 till 31st January, 2009.</p>
5.	Plan allocation	<p>The Ministry was created on 29th January, 2006 and a plan allocation of Rs.55 crore for 2005-06 was allocated for minority division in the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment. For 2006-07, a plan of Rs.130.89 crore was allocated. In 2007-08, the plan allocation was raised to Rs.500 crore. For the year 2008-09, the plan allocation was doubled to Rs.1000 crore. A similar amount has been provided for the year 2009-10. An outlay of Rs.7000 crore has been approved for the Ministry of Minority Affairs for the Eleventh Plan.</p>